



BETSY CLOSE
OREGON STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 8

Thank you Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am Senator Betsy Close. SB 673A is co-sponsored by myself, Senator Betsy Johnson and Senator Tim Knopp. This bill is a very critical bill to protect our Oregon children from the aggressive actions of the sex-trafficking industry, right here in our cities and small towns. Oregon has received a D- rating according to Shared Hope International for laws protecting our children from trafficking. Shared Hope International is a leading organization that has studied international sex trafficking and published books on the topic. They sponsor shelter homes across the earth in many countries to help sex slaves gain their freedom.

Every year, over 100,000 children are trafficked for sex in the United States, and, on average, these children are first exploited at age thirteen. Human trafficking is a \$9.8 billion industry in this country, and it is happening here in Oregon. Recently, I saw a video about the 2013 Kentucky Derby. It documented how young persons were already arriving in Kentucky for the event to be sold to those who want to purchase sex from minors. Our position is that a minor cannot consent to sex, paid or otherwise.

SB 673 is a bipartisan bill that strengthens the penalties for trafficking children and establishes mandatory minimum sentences of patronizing a prostitute that is a minor. It allows the court to designate the offense as a sex crime. It also allows the district attorney to intercept electronic communication for investigation. It adds crimes to the list of offenses constituting racketeering activity. The amendment adds back the felony charge on the first offense for the person who purchases sex with a minor.

This closes the legal loopholes that earned Oregon a "D" grade. I urge your support for the A-4 Amendment and the bill. Please rescue Oregon children! Thankyou.

SB 673-1 Amendment Changes

Hinders Enforcement against Johns who Buy Sex with a Minor

- Requires state to prove that defendant knew or reasonably believed that the "prostitute" was under 18. (Note: this will prevent a conviction in most cases).
- Removes rape shield evidentiary protections for victims of the crime of buying sex with a minor.
- Removes wiretapping investigation tool for crime of buying sex with a minor.

Reduces Penalties for Buying Sex with a Minor

- Reduces crime of buying sex with a minor from a Class B felony to a Class C felony on the third offense and a Class A misdemeanor on the first two offenses.
- Reduces penalty for first offense of buying sex with a minor to 30 days in jail and \$10,000.
- Reduces penalty for second offense of buying sex with a minor to 90 days in jail and \$20,000.
- Reduces penalty for third offense of buying sex with a minor from a category 9 offense to a category 8 offense.
- Eliminates new category 7 offense for attempting to buy sex with a police officer posing as a minor.
- A person convicted of buying sex with multiple minors in one encounter can only be charged with one offense.
- Does not require court to designate a person convicted of buying sex with a as a sex offender on the first offense.
- Reduces age for presumption of human trafficking to when victim is under 15 years old.

Other Problems

- Categorizes buying sex with a minor as a prostitution crime.
- Removes racketeering crime for persons who sell minors for sex.
- Removes 60-day extra time period for proving restitution damages to victims of the crime of buying sex with a minor.
- Removes child abuse reporting requirements for the crime of buying sex with a minor.

Good Change

- Allows Board on Public Safety Standards and Training to require that police officers receive training on fighting all types of human trafficking.

